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Chibas Vanish in Keys

CIA Hides Cuban Defector

By ERWIN POTTS
Herald Staff Writer

The super-secret U.S. Central Intelligence Agency took former Castro henchman Raul Chibas into custody Wednesday, informed sources reported.

Chibas, who arrived at Key West Tuesday with his wife and asked for political asylum in the United States, had disappeared from sight Wednesday morning.

Immigration officials said the 44-year-old former fundraiser for the Cuban revolution had been processed in Key West. CIA authorities apparently took him under their wing somewhere between Key West and Miami.

Chibas Wednesday was identified as the Cuban army major who presided over Premier Fidel Castro's first revolutionary tribunal.

The tribunal — a circus trial which brought world criticism — sentenced Jesus Sosa Blanco to death. More than 600 "war criminals" later were executed in similar trials.

Immigration officials were hush-hush on Chibas' whereabouts Wednesday. He never

arrived at Miami Immigration headquarters as expected.

Before his defection, Chibas was Castro's railroad administrator. He had been treasurer of the 26th of July movement.

During the revolution, Chibas' wife and two children lived in Miami. He was arrested by agents of deposed Dictator Fulgencio Batista in August 1957 while secretly collecting funds for the revolution.

A year later he was broadcasting from a revolutionary radio station in Castro's Oriente mountain stronghold.

No reason has yet been given for Chibas' defection, but former associates have said he was becoming dissatisfied with the communistic tendencies of Castro.

In Washington, some Latin American sources saw Chibas' defection as a heavy blow to the Castro regime.